



Security Council

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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

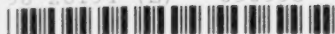
On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 16 and 31 August 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative



Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 16-31 August 1998

1. In the northern region 102 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Rawanduz, Sinjar, Ayn Zalah, Tall Kayf and Baibo.
2. In the southern region 748 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Rifa'i, Najaf, Qal'at Salih, Ali al-Sharqi, Nu'maniyah, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Nukhayb, Shaykh Sa'd and Ali al-Gharbi.
3. Twelve violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.
4. At 1330 hours on 18 August and at 1024, 1200 and 1400 hours on 19 August, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.
5. At 0915, 0920 and 1105 on 20 August and at 1035 and 1100 hours on 22 August, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.
6. At 1226, 1747, and 1750 hours on 25 August, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.
7. At 1615 hours on 25 August, a small United States patrol boat took under escort the Iraqi boat Ragad/8, which is used to take pilots to the pilot station near Mina' al-Bakr, and headed east of the port towards a frigate in that area for purposes of examination and inspection. The boat was released at 1845 hours.
8. At 1307, 1326, 1502 and 1509 hours on 26 August, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.
9. At 0930 on 26 August, a United States naval vessel with an armed helicopter on board intercepted an Iraqi fireboat near buoy 51 in the Khawr al-Zubayr waterway and proceeded to search it. Many questions were asked, and it was claimed that the reason for the search was to implement Security Council resolutions. The boat was then instructed to proceed towards a Canadian frigate bearing the hull number 95. The United States force on the Iraqi boat then disembarked and a Canadian force with various items of equipment boarded. The members of this force searched the boat meticulously and photographed its papers and official logs. At 1915 hours the boat was released.
10. At 1330 hours on 27 August, a United States boat escorted the merchant vessel BAWNK, which was putting to sea from Umm Qasr, to the inspection area. There it was searched. At 1815 hours the merchant vessel resumed its voyage.
11. At 0043, 1016, 1211, 1240 and 1737 hours on 27 August, United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.